As part of its "living history" presentation at Colonial Park, some men dressed as of 1861 are demonstrating the use of firearms to Park visitors. Other members of the group are in Colonial Park.

The Well Tempered Taxpayer

After touring Appomattox Court House and other National Park areas in Virginia, I'm a Pious Footslogger, a member of the Park Service's Chatterbox Contingent and a Disaffected Donor.

It is then, with surprise and delight that I report to a Fellow-Taxpayer that I'm not a Disaffected Donor. I'm a Pious Footslogger, a Chatterbox Contingent and a Disaffected Donor.

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Oh, I know they're taking liberties in Yosemite, as they try to share or contain the astonishing crowds of high, freaks and rip-off artists – which is only a logical extension of the crass commercialism which had been allowed to corrupt the Park from the beginning. But elsewhere in the Park – outside our daffy district – their activities are compared.

A Joy and a Delight:

Specifically, the Girl and I recently took advantage of a business trip to Philadelphia to extend our visit west and south to Gettysburg, Fort Ticonderoga, Saratoga. On the way, we hared off to such places as Harper's Ferry, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Petersburg, Richmond, and Appomattox Court House – places which I'd up till then had just been names on a map or backgrounds in an engraving.

In each of these places, the National Park Service has set up a Visitors Center which is a joy and a delight. Each one is spacious, well-designed, well-staffed, and, bless Beep, well-conditioned. Each has a handsome – mounted and informative exhibits, usually featuring excellent small-scale dioramas of incidents in the various battles that took place. Each of them also has a comfortable small auditorium where you may view, free of charge, a motion picture or slide film about the events which made this spot a historic one. Some even have large "electric maps" showing the movement of whole armies.

The Battlefield Tours themselves are arranged so that you may drive them at your own speed in your own car (also, hopefully, air-conditioned). Each stop on the tour has permanent readable markers and even tape-recorded explanations of what you're looking at and what its importance is. And of course at any spot on the tour you may leave your car and wander over the very fields, hills, and hummocks where the nation's fate hung in the balance.

The fields at this time of year are still lush and green, the air is balmy, the katydids are doing, and peace reigns serene. It's hard to imagine, except through the sound effects of the taped presentations, that a hundred years ago the ground on which you stand ran red with blood, and that the warm air was full of the spiteful humming of Minie bullets on the deadly whine of balls of canister.

Entrenchments, earthworks, and battlements, through archaeological work, have been largely restored – some of them are still the originals thrown up by the shovels of the enthusiastic armies – and the feeling of having stepped backward through time is pervasive. Throughout the area, silent cannon still point at their long-deserted targets.

Living History

A new program of the NPS is called "Living History". Here young men of the Park Service, costumed in uniforms of the period, demonstrate what it was like to live in the field in 1863 – how to pitch a tent, cook a meal, load a mule, fire a musket – even discharge a small howitzer. They do not, of course, show you how it felt to have a leg shattered by shrapnel, or to face the only surgical technique known at the time, the immediate amputation of the limb – usually without anesthetics. Nor do they tell you much of why the soldiers thought they were fighting. Matter of fact, the NPS is a might chary about dwelling on the root causes of the war, and tries to maintain a discreet impartiality in its presentations – though the farther South we went, the more apparent it became that the South had really won the war, and that Lee's surrender was simply one of those Unfortunate Circumstances.

Nevertheless, the entire tour through Pennsylvania and Virginia was exciting and inspirational. I only wish there were some way to make the trip available to every high school kid in the country. Two weeks on the scene would teach them more about their national heritage and give them more understanding of some of today's national problems than two semesters in a classroom.

A Best Buy

The National Park Service administers nearly 150 parks, memorials, and historic sites from Nova Scotia to Hawaii. It also holds in trust for the American people 88 National Monuments, from the Statue of Liberty to Muir Woods – plus a slather of cemeteries, seashores, trails, and river-ways. It also makes grants to states to restore or maintain historic sites not under its immediate jurisdiction.

All of this so that you and I can know "for real" something about where we came from, where we are, and where we might be going in the future.

The entire budget of the NPS is just about $300 million a year. That's just one-hundredth the amount we've been spending annually to destroy Southeast Asia and its people. As far as the use of tax dollars is concerned, the NPS has to be rated a "Best Buy". I'm tickled to death that some of my money helps make it possible.

Yep, for the first time in a long while, I'm mighty proud to be an American taxpayer.

Convention Set For Cattle Producers

On February 10, 11, and 12, beef cattle producers and marketing firms will gather at Natural Bridge to discuss the biggest events affecting beef cattle production, according to Dr. Harry J. Smith, Virginia Tech Extension Agent of Appomattox County.

Mr. Smith pointed out that representatives from all segments of the beef industry will get together for the business meetings of their respective groups, to attend a series of educational programs, and to spend a little time just taking in the sights. The agent explained that six state-wide organizations will hold their annual meetings in conjunction with this year's beef convention. In addition, a program is being put together for the accompanying W. A. Smith, the Virginia Hereford Assn. will open this year's convention with a breakfast hour and banquet the evening of Feb. 10. The Hereford weekers will also sponsor a breakfast business meeting on Friday, Feb. 11.

The Virginia Beef Cattle Improvement Association and the Association of Livestock Marketers will conduct their business meetings on Friday morning, February 11.

The agent outlined some of the highlights of the convention to include the keynote address at noon on Friday by Mr. Paul Cubbis of the Ralston Purina Company, St. Louis, Missouri, entitled, "Beef Production Management and the Consumer."

Mr. Cubbis, Mr. McMillan, Executive Vice President, American National Cattlemen's Assn., will present some views from the Washington scene at the Virginia Beef Cattle Association annual meeting on Friday afternoon.

The 65-member Virginia Tech Variety Glee Club will entertain the cattlemen and their wives at the awards banquet Friday evening.

The program outlined for the morning of February 12 will be dedicated to exploring some new concepts of feeder calf production, explained, D. A. Smith. Mr. Steve Sarsfield-Cook, Rapidan, will relate some of his ideas on how to produce feeder calves. Other speakers and panel participants for the Saturday morning program will include Charles Boyles, Manager, Eastern Ohio Research & Development Center, Caldwell, Ohio; Fred Scott, Jr., North Garden, Virginia; W. A. Stuart, Jr., Rosedale, Virginia; Nelson Dean, Port Republic, Virginia; and, Hugh Jones, Abingdon, Virginia. Dr. M. D. Wise, Head of the Animal Science Dept. at Virginia Tech, will summarize the Saturday morning program.

The three-day convention will conclude Saturday afternoon with the business meeting of the Virginia Polled Hereford Association and the Virginia Shorthorn Association.

TB Association Will Become State Unit

The board of directors of the Central Virginia TB and Respiratory Disease Association heard a report of the results of the Christmas Seal campaign at the last meeting of its fiscal year on Monday, Jan. 17, in the Prince Edward County court house.

A report was also given on a model Clean-up campaign, and a talk on the success of this campaign in Amherst County.

The chairman of the Christmas Seal Campaign, the Rev. Haywood Watkins, reported that $41,899 had been contributed and that $30,998.30 remained in the treasury after expenses had been taken out.

Dr. Anthony J. Munoz, Association president, presided.

Nurse Work

In the absence of Mrs. Dorothy Marshall, R. N. Chairman of the Nursing Advisory Committee, Lynchburg General Hospital, Mrs. Emma Anthony, executive director of the association, gave her report. She said two meetings had been held by the nursing advisory committee and the agenda for the 3day Nurses' Seminar to be held November 11-17, 1972 in Lynchburg, sponsored by the association and District 3, Virginia Nurses' Association, was just about complete.

Mrs. Anthony pointed out, "This seminar is to be as a pilot effort as the association in the state is tempted to plan a program three consecutive days for nurses and public throughout the country participating on the Cent.

Dr. Charles W. Scott, member, announced that April 1, the Central TB and RD association will become a unit of the association instead of an affiliate. In 1956 the area association started off with nine units being the first in the United States to become a member association. It now is comprised of 11 counties and City of Lynchburg.

Clean Up Plan

In 1968 the Chamber of Commerce at Amherst made the purchase of five trash containers to be put in strategic places in the county but the supervisors decided they were not used enough, according to Peyton Thomas, sanitarian, Amherst County, who was speaker of the evening. Public had to be educated on the subject.

November 13 was set up as "Clean-Up Day". Small paper and a few bottles were picked up within a 25 mile radius.

It is suggested that the containers be put out in spots to be cleaned. There are approximately seven containers and planned for Appomattox from June 30 to August 1, 1972.

This will be a graduate seminar in the Civil War history and the teaching of Civil War history. The institute will be held at the Intermediate School and will include classroom lectures, intensive reading, guest lecturers, a variety of audio-visual aids, and at least two field trips to some of the most important of the Civil War battlefields.

Instructor will be Dr. James I. Robertson, Jr., chairman of the Dept. of History, Virginia Polytechnic and State University.

The Civil War was America's most traumatic experience. More Americans died in that war than in all of the nation's other wars combined. Yet from the ashes of more than 2,000 battles of the Civil War evolved a new nation that became -- and remains -- what Lincoln called "The last great hope of earth."

Just as the 1861-1865 conflict was the watershed of American life, Abraham Lincoln alone has been the subject of more than 6,000 books. Discussions on the Civil War inevitably draw the highest history, so it is today the most popular era in our nations' past. More appomattox, over 60,000 books and monographs have been written about the struggle. This will be the first on-site Civil War seminar ever conducted. According to Dr. Robertson the seminar will attempt "to establish a totally objective and impartial atmosphere in which the student may carry out scholarly analysis."

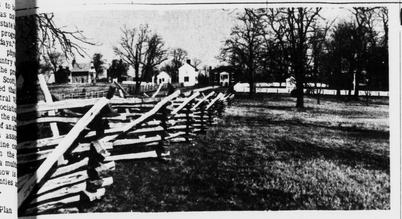
Dr. Robertson has described the institute in further detail, as follows:

Student interest on all levels of education. Meanwhile, historians have traditionally disagreed among themselves in analyzing almost every facet of the war.

Thus, faced with a flood of literature, unusually strong interest among students and a mass of conflicting interpretations, the secondary school teacher tends to become overwhelmed by the subject.

The program recommended hopes to eliminate much of the confusion, complexity and general misunderstanding surrounding the Civil War. Of paramount importance will be the attempt to establish a totally objective and impartial atmosphere in which the student may carry out a scholarly analysis of the Civil War Era. A maximum of 100 teachers will be accepted for the three-week institute. Site of the seminar will be Appomattox, Virginia where in 1865 the Civil War ended. The curriculum will consist of regular classroom sessions, intensive readings, guest lectures by recognized authorities on the war, and bus trips to prominent Virginia battlefield sites -- with National Park Service personnel supplying guided tours and informative material at each site.

Such an approach is unprecedented in the field of Civil War History. Virginia was undeniably the pivotal state of the war; contending armies ravaged its fields and cities. It is therefore fitting that this summer institute be held in the center of the state, and at the site where the war reached its dramatic conclusion. In addition, classroom lectures will be equally divided between factual instruction and interpretative historiography so as to prepare teachers better for Civil War discussions they will conduct in their own classes. Audio-visuals, on-site battlefield trips, plus information to be presented by visiting lecturers, give every evidence of providing the maximum amount of



View of the old village of Appomattox Court House. Visits to the Park and other Civil War sites will be a part of the Appomattox-Civil War Institute to be held in Appomattox June 30 – August 18

Appomattox Civil War Institute Is First Of Its Kind

more than 125 applications have already been received for a six-week, intensive graduate course designed for a total of twenty secondary school teachers and planned for Appomattox from June 30 to August 1, 1972.

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graduate - level training in the minimum amount of time.

It is hoped that this first program, scheduled for Summer, 1972, will be so successful as to become thereafter an annual affair. More importantly, however, this summer seminar will hopefully profice the teachers of our children with a better understanding of the period from which modern America emerged. Armed with a clearer knowledge of the past, these teachers can then use the present to prepare the young for the tribulations of the future. This, after all, is the basic purpose of education.

Manager To Assume New Club Post

The manager of the Lynchburg division of the Auto Club of Virginia has submitted his resignation to accept a managerial post in West Virginia.

A. B. (Jeff) Norconk, of Bpost Spring, who has headed the Lynchburg division for almost seven years, will be the new manager of the Bluefield, W. Va., Auto Club.

Norconk, who came to Lynchburg in May, 1965, saw the area membership flourish to the point the auto club's offices were moved from Church St. to the new $60,000 building at Memorial and Alleghany Avenues.

Prior to coming to Lynchburg Norconk was the division manager of the Tidewater Auto Association with his offices in Newport News.

A native of Towanda, Pa., Norconk has been active in the states automobile associations since December, 1946. His managerial experience dates back to April 1, 1948, when he took over the Peninsula division.

Norconk has been active in many civic functions since coming here. He was a member of the Rotary Club of Lynchburg served as council commissioner; on the scout master training division and the executive board of the Boy Scouts of America, was a member of the Lynchburg Safety Club and the Pedestrian Safety Committee. In addition he served as president, Appomattox High School.

Mrs. Norconk has been serving as president of the Appomattox Woman's Club. She is a member of the Appomattox county committee for the Cent. Va. Speech and Hearing Center and a past member of Delta Zeta Chapter, Beta Sigma Phi. The Norconks are members of the Appomattox Presbyterian Church.

The Norconks have three children, Bruce, a freshman at Lynchburg College; Jeff, a graduate of Lear Siegler Institute, Silver Spring, Maryland who is now a data processing technician employed in Silver Spring; and Virginia a seventh grader at Appomattox Intermediate School.

INVITATION TO 'HEART PARTY'

Over four hundred Virginia children who have recovered from heart surgery have been mailed invitations to attend Virginia Heart Association's Ninth Annual Children's Party on Saturday, Feb. 12, in Richmond. The party, honoring children three through 12 years of age, will be held in Thalhimer's 5th floor auditorium beginning at 2:30 p.m. according to an announcement by E. Turpin Phillips, Richmond, the Association's President.

Although invitations have been mailed to all eligible children of record in Virginia, the parents of such youngsters who do not receive invitations are asked to contact virginia Heart Association, 316 East Clay St., Richmond, 23219. An invitation will be issued immediately.

Featured at the party will be clowns, a make-believe trip to Disneyland, and a special visit by some of the Disney On Parade characters, Eddie Weaver, a well-known Va. entertainer will also be on hand.

Members of the Camera Club of Richmond will photograph the festivities for a later photograph competition.

High School To Serve Needs Of Job-Bound Or College-Bound

Appomattox County School Superintendent Earl J. Smith, following the recent action of the county Board of Supervisors to fund the new county high school through the sale of bonds, agreed to have the TIMES-VIRGINIAN published a general statement about the design and purpose of the new school.

"The new Appomattox County High School has been planned around the educational program necessary to meet the needs of our pupils," says Supt. Smith. "The underlying philosophy is that an expanded, comprehensive high school is needed so that each pupil can either move to continued formal education after high school or have a salable skill to offer as he moves into the labor market. We can offer no less and still fulfill our obligation to them.

"We have had the continued support of the supervisors and parents and others in advancing the high school project to its present point. Money was provided by the board of supervisors to purchase a site. Approval and money were provided by the Board to develop construction drawings.

"It is our obligation (the School Board's) to give to the citizens of the county a building that looks beyond the immediate present into the future. This means that we cannot build a building that provides just for our present needs, but one that has the central facilities necessary to make it easy to adjust to future needs.

"Neither can we build a building that provides the cheapest initial cost, but becomes expensive in future maintenance costs. Indeed, the building must maintain a balance between the two.

"Through months of intensive planning and consultations with the various services of the State Department of Education we believe that such a structure has been designed. While not the least expensive building that can be designed in regards to initial cost, neither is it elaborate. Space has been designed to serve the specific function for which it is intended. Each area of the building has been carefully scrutinized to determine if it meets this criterion. Design and materials have been chosen to be both functional and to require as little maintenance as possible in the future.

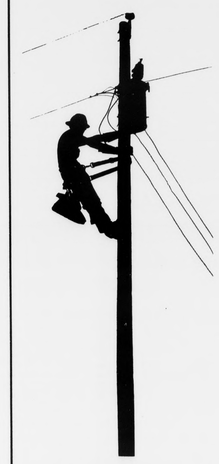
"The educational needs of the county have been expressed by the School Board in the educational program stated and necessary of a building designed to implement this program.

"The new high school concerns the lives of our children and the future of our county. The education of our children knows no magisterial boundaries. The needs of the children in Southside, are no less, no more, important than those in Stonewall. The needs of those in Stonewall are no less nor more important than those in Clover Hill. The education of each child is the reponsibility of each of us. It does not matter from which district or economic status he comes. Each one of us is eventually affected by what happens to each other of us."

Helps Economy

Plans for Appomattox county call for the planting of at least 800,000 seedlings by hand in cutover land plus another 50,000 seedlings to be planted in abandoned fields. Tree planting operations have already begun says county forester, Warren Taylor . Taylor pointed out certain other economic benefits, in addition to the obvious one of pulpwood and timber sales from the land planted. He says that each matching dollar paid to a tree grower results in another dollar being spent, usually locally, in hiring crews for planting. In other words, the $14,000 paid in matching funds represents $28,000 in dollar turnover. Statewide the figure gets even more impressive, with the $1 million program becoming $2 million plus in dollar activity.

For Appomattox county the program spells four-way benefits says forester Taylor: 1. A lot of cutover timberland is finally getting reforested. 2. Landowners are reimbursed one-half of the total cost of reforestation. 3. Jobs are created locally. 4. More than $14,000 is available to county tree growers and through them to planting crews and others.



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